



# MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT'S NEW BUSES EQUIPPED WITH STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY

**I**n the next five years, Miami-Dade Transit will have added 500 new buses to its increasingly high-tech fleet. MDT Director Roosevelt Bradley believes the state-of-the-art devices in the new coaches will elevate the transit department to new heights in its use of innovative technology.

"Installing these high-tech devices demonstrates MDT's commitment to making public transportation completely available to everyone in our community, especially our customers with disabilities," said Bradley.

Voice annunciators and digital text message devices are already installed in all of the recently acquired 30-foot Optare minibuses and regular 40-foot NABI buses. The voice annunciator, a "talking bus" announcement system, audibly informs blind riders and others with visual impairments of the bus's location, announcing major intersections along the route.

The deaf and people with hearing impairments can easily read text messages on an interior LED electronic sign that advises passengers of upcoming stops and key points of interest.

Passengers in wheelchairs or anyone unable to navigate the stairs of a bus now find it much easier to board a Metrobus. As new low-floor buses are delivered, heavier, mechanical-lift equipped buses are removed from revenue service. The lighter, modern, low-floor ramps allow riders with

physical disabilities to board easily.

The low-floor buses also incorporate a programmable logic-control computer system that talks to other modules throughout the bus, making it much easier for bus mechanics to diagnose and correct problems.

Another high-tech enhancement on MDT buses is a digital video camera system. The system records simultaneously from three to six cameras strategically placed from the front to the rear of the bus. Similar to police vehicles, one camera even records whatever the bus operator sees in front of the bus while on the road. The images are stored on a computer hard drive that holds up to 24 hours of recorded video. Should an incident develop, a copy of the video file is accessed to evaluate exactly what happened.

Of equal importance is the Computer Aided Dispatch/Automatic Vehicle Location (CAD/AVL) system which allows MDT personnel to pinpoint the exact location of a bus. The CAD/AVL radio communication and electronic alarm notification features alert MDT's Central Control personnel during an emergency, reducing response time. Vital information is quickly relayed to law enforcement and emergency crews.

"Miami-Dade Transit is constantly looking for ways to improve our services. This new technology helps us to provide our riders with a safer, more reliable and accessible transportation system," said Bradley.

*Delivering Excellence Every Day*

